

From: Bill Hickey [mailto:bill.hickey@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 7:32 AM
To: Senate Majority Committee Clerks
Subject: HB 4052 S-1

To Members of the Michigan Competitiveness Committee,

This is to urge you not to pass the above bill out of committee. HB 4052 S-1 is an attack on local rule. I live in Detroit. Our development needs are different than those in other municipalities in the State. Just as we would not purport to speak for those municipalities or constrain their legitimate powers, we deserve the right to pass those legal and legitimate ordinances and measures that are necessary to achieve our development aims. This issues at the heart of this bill – prevailing wages, minimum wages, and community benefits agreements – are issues that are well within the scope of local government to tailor to their own needs.

On the specific issue of community benefits agreements, I have been part of a community group that has been negotiating community benefits with Meijer regarding the new store they will open this morning in my neighborhood. I can tell you that the process has been one in which both the community and the store have benefitted. The community, has benefitted in having over 250 of its citizens hired at the new site. The store has benefitted in gaining employees who are friends and neighbors of those who will shop there. A community benefits agreement ordinance would only make such mutually beneficial dynamics a requirement of doing development, at a certain dollar threshold, in our city. We ought to have the right and ability to do that.

Please do not pass this unnecessarily intrusive law out of committee.

Sincerely,

William Hickey
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